

As a journalist and psychologist, I am appalled at the FCC's inaction against Sinclair Broadcasting Group. Sinclair has required their stations to air an anti-Kerry 2-hour piece of raw propaganda made by Bush operatives. pre-empting regular programming on the flimsy pretext it is "news". This is an outrageous and illegal attempt to influence the election.

Sinclair has been given the right to use the public airwaves for free, and is therefore obligated to serve the public interest. This is a perfect example of why media ownership rules need to be strengthened, and monopolies not be allowed to destroy our constitutional rights for their own nefarious purposes.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.